

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Surgery team #33 arrived in Santa Cruz, Bolivia in the early morning hours of September 7th. They came from Washington State, Kansas, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Florida. They joined their hearts and hands together and worked as one to bring hope and healing to the poorest of the poor through a week of free, life-changing surgeries. Here are some of the patients and their stories.



Chelsy is 7 years old. Chelsy loves sports! She especially loves playing soccer! Chelsy had surgery for a hernia that has caused her pain for several years. Now she can run and play with her friends without any pain!



Clementina, 43 years old, is a single mom with 7 children. She walks selling peanuts in the streets to support her family. She has had gallstones for 16 years. Surgery was not an option until a friend told her about Mission of Hope, where everything is free!



Roxana, 38 years old, is a single mom with 2 children. When she had to leave her job as a “nanny” due to pain and bleeding from uterine masses, her 18 year old son dropped out of school to find a job and help her. She is now recovering from a successful hysterectomy and looking forward to getting back to work!



Eunice, 46 years old, suffered with the pain of gallstones for 20 years! She came to the clinic in pain, unable to eat, and losing weight. Her husband gets paid at his construction job on Saturdays, which buys enough food to last until Wednesday. Thursdays and Fridays they do not eat. She is so grateful for the surgery!

Viviana's Story



Viviana after surgery

Viviana is a 48 year old lady who lives high up in the Andes Mountains with her husband and 4 grown children. "Grandpa" makes bows and arrows that her husband uses to shoot wild llamas, sheep, chickens and goats. They do not have refrigeration, so they build a fire and hang the meat to dry and smoke. The animal skins are used to make clothing and blankets.

Viviana was in pain for more than 2 years from growths in her uterus and ovary. She was afraid to go to the hospital. She had been told that "people die there." Finally, about 3 months ago, the pain became so strong that she overcame her fear and went to the hospital in Potosi where she lives, seeing a medical doctor for the first time in her life. She was told that the surgery

she needed would cost more than \$3,600, an impossible amount!

Seeing how much pain she was in, Viviana's husband was desperate to find help for his wife. He decided to take her to Santa Cruz, which was a 16 hour trip by bus. They have a niece in Santa Cruz who offered them a room. They were told to go to a public hospital, but the doctors in the public hospitals of Santa Cruz have been on strike for more than a month. So, their niece took them to a private doctor who referred them to the Mission of Hope clinic, just as we were screening patients for GYN surgery!

Viviana had a successful surgery and was delivered of an ovarian tumor about the size of a grapefruit! She is no longer living in constant pain! She and her husband are both very thankful!

THE \$150,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE HAS BEGUN

Every dollar that we receive between now and December 31 up to \$150,000 will be doubled by an anonymous donor. This money will be used to provide free medical care to the poor in Bolivia during the coming year of 2020. Mission of Hope is a debt-free mission and almost 100 % of your tax-exempt donation goes directly into our Bolivia program!

The gift of "New Eyes"

During our surgery week, 75 patients received brand new eyeglasses completely free of charge! One of the team members summed it up and wrote the following...

The tears, the joy and the truly grateful hearts of all the patients! How they treasured the glasses they received! The abundant "thank you's" and the "God bless you's" the patients all expressed in Spanish to us at the Eye Clinic was a day I will never forget. It was truly a joyous day to see so many be able to receive the gift of new "eyes." I am sure many earn their small living by doing detailed work with their hands, so not only were all given new "eyes" but many were given the opportunity to continue in the work they do to make a living.

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Maxima threads a needle



Reading with new eyes